



National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center

Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

Inside Wallops

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Beach Mapping Results

NASA and the Park Service held a press conference March 6 at the National Park Service Visitor Center, Assateague Island, MD., to discuss the results of the recent beach mapping mission. Bill Krabill, Observational Science Branch and Carl Zimmerman, Chief of Resource Management, National Park Service participated in the conference attended by local and regional media. Further information on the Assateague Survey can be found at the following URL: <http://aol.wff.nasa.gov/aoltm/projects/beachmap/>



An aerial view of the north end of Assateague Island (bottom), Ocean City Inlet (middle) and Ocean City, MD (top) taken from the cockpit of the NASA P-3 research aircraft during the recent beach mapping mission.

Townsend Named Goddard Deputy Director

William F. Townsend, Deputy Associate Administrator for Earth Science at NASA Headquarters, has been named Deputy Director of the Goddard Space Flight Center. Townsend begins his new assignment March 23.

"The Agency is fortunate to have a person of Bill's technical and managerial expertise accept this new challenge," said NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin. "His capabilities will be a real asset at Goddard."

An experienced manager who started his NASA career more than 30 years ago at the Wallops Flight Facility, Townsend was named Deputy Associate Administrator for the Office of Earth Science in August 1993 where he was responsible for the general management and direction of all Earth Science flight programs. Beginning in June 1996, Townsend served as acting Associate Administrator for the Enterprise. Goddard is the Agency's lead center for the Earth Science enterprise.

Townsend's involvement in Earth Science programs dates back to his career at Wallops where he had a variety of responsibilities mainly relating to the development of remote sensing instruments for flight on aircraft and satellites.

"I've known and respected Bill Townsend for a long time and am really looking forward to working with him," said Goddard Director A.V. Diaz. "I'm delighted he's returning home to Goddard. His background and experience makes him the absolute perfect choice for this job. Bill is an outstanding leader who is highly respected in the technical and scientific communities, and I know he will make important contributions to Goddard's space science, Earth science and technology programs benefiting both Goddard and the Agency."

During his tenure at Wallops, Townsend was Experiment Manager for the Seasat Radar Altimeter Experiment which flew in 1978 and provided the first decimeter quality altimeter data taken over the oceans from space.

Townsend was born in Nassawadox, Va. He received an electrical engineering degree with honors from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Va.

March 3, 1998

A Message to Federal Workers from the Vice President of the United States

Five years ago this month, we embarked on a National Performance Review to change the way government works. It seemed an impossible task. Red tape, senseless rules, and rigid hierarchies separated us from the people we were pledged to serve. Public trust in government was at an all-time low and the budget deficit at an all-time high.

Today, the reinventing government initiative is the longest running and most successful government reform effort in history. Thanks to your partnerships in and out of government and the application of exciting new technologies, our government does work better and it does cost less. As a result, public trust is beginning to go up and the deficit is being eliminated.

The key to this success is you. We trusted you—the people on the front lines—to get the job done, and you delivered. You knew the problems and you knew how to fix them.

For the first time in history the federal government has measurable standards for serving the American people. We have safer workplaces, less crime, easier buying practices, faster drug approvals, and faster delivery of mail. We have cut unnecessary regulations and outdated programs, trimmed our own workforce, and saved taxpayers billions of dollars.

To celebrate this success and build on what you have accomplished, we are celebrating our fifth anniversary by launching a new Conversation with America. We urge you to begin an ongoing dialogue with the American people to learn what they want and expect from their government. Our goal is to regain in fullest measure the confidence of the people we serve.

We have recently renamed our effort the National Partnership for Reinventing Government. We ask your commitment to NPR's new vision, "America@OurBest," and its mission, "In time for the 21st Century, reinvent government to work better, cost less, and get results that Americans care about."

President Clinton and I are proud of you. Thank you for your fine work.

Al Gore

Weather Summary

by Ted Wilz, Senior Meteorologist

Average temperatures for February were nearly six degrees above normal. Rainfall of over six inches was more than twice our monthly average of 2.99 inches for February. As much as some folks try to discount the effects of that warm body of water off the Pacific Coast, the climatological facts speak for themselves. We continue to have an extremely mild but wet winter, courtesy of El Nino.

The warm temperatures during February have been very consistent, however, we have experienced no record highs. A reading of 60 degrees on Feb. 19 was the warmest recorded for the month. Low temperatures were extremely mild as well. There were no new record lows recorded. The morning of Feb. 15 was the coldest for the month with a reading of 25 degrees. As one might expect, with such warm temperatures, there was no snowfall recorded in February.

Although the El Nino current is expected to remain quite active through the spring, its effect on East Coast weather should not be as evident as during the harsher winter months. If our weather pattern becomes more normal during April, we should begin to dry out.



Along the Eastern Shore, April is normally our driest month of the year. We usually average only 2.64 inches of rainfall during 10 days of measurable precipitation. Two or three days during the month there may be an active thunderstorm.

Average high temperatures should warm to the mid-60s by the end of the month causing flowers and trees to bloom in earnest. This may happen even sooner with the help of El Nino's warm touch. Average low temperatures warm from 40 degrees at the beginning of the month to the upper 40s at the end of April.

If you're anxious to start a summer garden, don't be fooled by long-term averages. There is usually a day or two during April where temperatures can dip below the freezing mark. Although El Nino may have given us a pleasant winter, there may be a few springtime freezes in our weather pattern. Freezes occurred as late as April 25 in 1967.

St. Patrick's Day Party

5 p.m. March 17
Bldg. F-3



Snacks -- No Cost
(Donations accepted)

Entertainment

Contact Pat Pruitt, x1612

Wallops Shorts.....

Engineer's Week

As a continuation of Engineer's Week activities, Bill Krabill visited students at Greenwood Middle School and Washington High School in Princess Anne, and Crisfield Middle School, Crisfield, MD.

Career Fairs

Sandy Bowden and Charlotte Williams-Meek participated in the Accomack County Career Fair held at Arcadia High School. Students from Tangier Combined, Nandua, Arcadia and Chincoteague High Schools attended.

On the same day, Mike Bundick, Scott Webb and Betty Flowers traveled to Northampton High School in Eastville, VA to participate in the Northampton County Career Fair. The fair was attended by students from Broadwater Academy and Northampton High School.

Launches

A Black Brant XI sounding rocket was successfully launched at 12:49 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, March 6 from Wallops Island for the U.S. Air Force.

As a part of the Coqui Dos Campaign, the sixth in a series of eleven sounding rockets was successfully launched from Tortuguero, Puerto Rico at 9:33 p.m. Atlantic Standard Time, March 6. The Black Brant VC carried a payload to penetrate a descending ionized layer at an altitude at or above 71 miles and to measure the neutral winds, ion composition, plasma density, species temperatures and electric fields within the layer and in the surrounding ionosphere. Dr. Greg Earle, University of Texas at Dallas was the principal investigator. Frank Lau, Code 810, was the payload manager.



Homes For Rent

Brick home on two acres of land, Market St., Onancock, VA. Two bedrooms, one bath, dining room, living room, kitchen with dining area and a one car garage. \$450 a month. Call (757) 787-7429

Home located at 101 Brentwood Circle, Pocomoke City, MD. Four bedrooms, 2.5 baths and two car garage. \$600 a month. No pets. Available May 1. Call (301) 464-9596.

NASA Scholarships Available

Applications are now available for the NASA College Scholarships. Dependents of NASA and former NASA employees qualify. Candidates must have graduated from an accredited public, private or parochial high school or be currently enrolled in college with good academic standing. They must have a combined high school grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Five scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$2,000 each during the 1998-99 school year. The scholarship is renewable for a maximum of \$8,000 over six calendar years.

Applications must be pursuing a course of study in the science or engineering field that will lead to a recognized undergraduate degree at an accredited college or university in the United States.

Applications must be submitted to the scholarship committee at Johnson Space Center by March 31. For further information and application forms contact Sherry Kleckner, x1204 or by e-mail: Sherry.W.Kleckner.1@gsfc.nasa.gov



ISO 9000 Employee Awareness Briefings Rescheduled

The ISO 9000 sessions originally scheduled for March 10 and 11 have been rescheduled as follows. All sessions will be in the Building F-3 Conference Area.

Date	Time	Last Name
3/31/98	9-11 a.m.	A - H
3/31/98	1-3 p.m.	I - R
4/01/98	9-11 a.m.	S - Z

Employees who are unable to attend their designated session are encouraged to pick one of the other two times to go. For further information email David Cleveland, GSFC at the following address: dclevela@pop300.gsfc.nasa.gov

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